price risk and to facilitate integration of domestic market with international markets.

(iv) Government should promote development of national warehousing receipt system for agricultural commodities to induce increased flow of funds to agriculture sector and to increase price risk management.

(v) Credit policy of the Government should support pledge financing by treating it as priority sector lending to agriculture with the facility of concessional re-finance.

(vi) Government need to promote marketing extension, training and research and use of information technology in agricultural sector to advise the farmers on (a) product planning, (b) market information, (c) securing markets, (d) alternative/ direct marketing, (e) improved marketing services including grading and packaging, and advantage of group marketing.

An inter-ministerial Task Force has been constituted to examine the recommendations and suggest measures for implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister had, in his budget speech on 28.2.2001, announced to extend the coverage of credit linked subsidy scheme for construction of cold storage for perishable commodities also to cover rural godowns. In pursuance of the above announcement, a scheme for construction of rural godowns is being formulated. The scheme will enable the small farmers to enhance their holding capacity in order to sell their produce at remunerative prices and avoiding distress sales.

Self-Help Group

1174. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many Self-Help Groups are functioning in the country;

(b) how many of them are in Karnataka;

(c) the number of rural poor so far benefited from these Self-Help Groups in Karnataka;

(d) the amount so far released during 2001-2002 to Karnataka to these Self-Help Groups; and

(e) how many new Self-Help groups are proposed to be set up in Karnataka during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) A total of 6.25 lakhs Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have so far been formed under the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) upto September, 2001 since its launching in April, 1999.

(b) Out of the total SHGs formed in the country, 16,319 are in Karnataka.

(c) Out of total 58,800 Swarozgaris assisted in Karnataka, from 1999-2000 upto September, 2001, 37,345 were members of the SHGs.

(d) Funds released under SGSY to the State are used for SHGs.

(e) Physical target are not fixed under the SGSY for formation of SHGs.

Implementation of TSC projects

1175. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects being implemented in various districts of the country under the Restructured Central Rural Sanitation Programme, State-wise;

(b) the number of identified pilot districts pending for implementation of these projects during the current year in Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan; and

(c) time by when work on TSC projects in these districts is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Out of 200 Total Sanitation Campaign districts allotted during the Ninth Five Year Plan, Total Sanitation Campaign projects for 111 districts have been sanctioned for implementation under the Central Rural